

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method for the preparation of biologically active β -NGF from its inactive pro form having a poor solubility which is obtainable after recombinant preparation in prokaryotes, wherein proNGF in its inactive form having poor solubility is solubilized in a solution of a denaturing agent in a denaturing concentration and is afterwards transferred into a solution which is not or weakly denaturing whereby solubility is maintained and the denatured proNGF assumes a biologically active conformation as determined by the disulfide bonds present in native β -NGF, and subsequently the prosequence is cleaved off whereby active β -NGF is obtained which can be isolated.
2. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 wherein the not or weakly denaturing solution contains arginine.
3. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 2 wherein the concentration of arginine is 0.2 to 1.5 mol/l.
4. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 wherein the naturation is carried out in the presence of a thiol component in its reduced and oxidized form.
5. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 wherein the cleaving off of the prosequence is carried out by means of a protease with a substrate specificity for cleaving after the amino acid arginine.
6. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 5 wherein trypsin is used as the protease.

7. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 wherein guanidinium hydrochloride or urea is used as the denaturing agent.

8. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical preparation containing proNGF as the active ingredient, the proNGF having activity of a level comparable to that of β -NGF.

9. (Withdrawn) The use of recombinant proNGF for the preparation of a pharmaceutical preparation for the treatment of neuropathies.

10. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 2 wherein the naturation is carried out in the presence of a thiol component in its reduced and oxidized form.

11. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 3 wherein the naturation is carried out in the presence of a thiol component in its reduced and oxidized form.

12. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 2 wherein the cleaving off of the prosequence is carried out by means of a protease with a substrate specificity for cleaving after the amino acid arginine.

13. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 3 wherein the cleaving off of the prosequence is carried out by means of a protease with a substrate specificity for cleaving after the amino acid arginine.

14. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 4 wherein the cleaving off of the prosequence is carried out by means of a protease with a substrate specificity for cleaving after the amino acid arginine.

15. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 2 wherein guanidinium hydrochloride or urea is used as the denaturing agent.

16. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 3 wherein guanidinium hydrochloride or urea is used as the denaturing agent.

17. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 4 wherein guanidinium hydrochloride or urea is used as the denaturing agent.

18. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 5 wherein guanidinium hydrochloride or urea is used as the denaturing agent.

19. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 6 wherein guanidinium hydrochloride or urea is used as the denaturing agent.

20. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical preparation of claim 8, wherein the proNGF is recombinant.